

**THE LEGION OF MERIT**

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LAWRENCE K. WHITE, (O-19241), Colonel, Infantry, United States Army, FOR EXCEPTIONALLY MERITORIOUS CONDUCT in the performance of outstanding services in the Solomon Islands from 19 July 1943 to 31 January 1944.

On 1 August 1943 at New Georgia, Colonel White (then Lieutenant Colonel) led hastily assembled troops against a Japanese salient which threatened to isolate a Regiment from the rest of the 37th Division. His swift and decisive action checked the enemy's plan and ultimately thwarted it. As Chief of Staff to the Commander of the Task Force landing on Vella Lavella on 7 August, he was responsible for the coordination of the entire operation. He led the 148th Infantry Regiment ashore at Bougainville on 8 November; this being the first Army Regiment to join the Marines who had established a beachhead. Throughout these combat operations, Colonel White demonstrated superior courage, ability and judgment.

General Orders Number 360

7 March 1944

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW